

BLOOMFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

PUBLIC SAFETY SUBCOMMITTEE

There was a regular meeting for the above-referenced subcommittee held at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, March 9, 2015 in Conference Room #5, Bloomfield Town Hall, 800 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT.

Present were: Councilors Joseph Washington, Leon Rivers, Joseph Merritt, Joel Neuwirth

Also present were: Philip K. Schenck Jr., Town Manager, Chief Paul Hammick, , Pat Braun and India Rodgers, Clerk of Council.

Absent were: Councilor Wayne Hypolite, Chief Robert Farmer and Chief William Riley

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. There was no quorum present for an official record of meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Councilor Rivers, seconded by Councilor Merritt and voted unanimously to approve the minutes of January 12, 2015.

POLICE

The police department budget remains on track. Expenditures are on schedule and non-personal are in balance.

Crime

There was a decrease of 9% for the month and 19% year to date in crime statistics.

The calls for service decreased 13% for the month and 11% year to date.

Arrests statistics decreased 16% for the month and 19% year to date. Chief Hammick reported that burglary incidents have declined in the past month due to several arrests that were made relative to Regency Drive and Sutton Place.

There were no citizen complaints in February or year to date thus far. However, the department received a letter from a resident referencing domestic family violence issues, in which several agencies involved in investigating.

There were three open investigations in the Internal Affairs division in the past month. All investigations are currently being reviewed.

Officer Benitez and Officer Tonkin were involved in two separate incidents involving use of force. Both officers investigations were found unsubstantiated and within departmental guidelines.

Traffic Enforcement will continue at the primary accident locations: Maple Street, Woodland Avenue, Duncaster Road, Blue Hills Avenue and Cottage Grove Road. Most accidents reported have been a result of slippery conditions during the winter months.

Personnel Updates

The department is budgeted for 49 sworn officers, there is currently 50 sworn officers on staff, with the anticipation of a retirement on July 1, 2015.

There are no anticipated retirements for the month of March 2015. However, 8 officers are eligible for retirement in 2015. Chief Hammick stated that the department is currently in the process of conducting background checks for potential vacancies.

Officer Steven Grabowski is doing exceptionally well in the Police Academy. Officer Grabowski was named Class Sergeant in his training class.

The department recently hired Officer Jonathan Sykes on February 25, 2015. This position was filled as a goal hire as a part of the town Affirmative Action initiatives. Officer Sykes will enter the Hartford Police Academy on March 23, 2015.

CALEA

Chief Hammick reported that the mock assessment on the department was very successful on January 28, 2015. The final assessment will be conducted June 15, 2015. There will be three outside national consultants that will evaluate the department.

Community Services

The new community services officer, Officer Robert Wilkins will officially begin full time in this position on March 23, 2015.

On February 24, 2015, the Citizens Police Academy began with 18 participants in their training class.

The Community Survey for the department was distributed to January 5, 2015 to the community. This survey is available in public buildings, online, website, survey monkey and local libraries. There were 52 surveys collected in the first 60 days of distribution. Most of the comments made on the surveys suggested improvements were:

- Extended routine patrols
- Traffic/parking issues
- Increase public announcement
- Engage community
- Police cadet/explorer
- Promote Community service programs

BVA

There are currently 24 students who graduated the EMT class. Participants took the practical exam in February 2015.

There were two new volunteers who joined the BVA this past month.

The new ambulance has arrived in the department. Council members will have a tour of this new piece of equipment.

Sergeant Ellen White will coordinate a golf tournament fundraiser at Wintonbury Hills Golf Course. These funds will be used to support the purchase of a second power loader and stretcher.

The community CPR classes will begin in April 2015.

FIRE

There were no representatives available at the meeting to report from the Blue Hills Fire District and Center Fire District.

EMS

Mr. Pat Braun informed the committee that the police department will continue to gather statistical information for the EMS committee.

Nearly, 50% of the participants that graduated from the EMT class successfully passed the first round of practical testing.

The BVA Fund continues to support EMS efforts to purchase other ambulances in the future.

The local business fund drive will be issued in the next few months.

The Volunteer Awards banquet will be held on March 21, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. at Birch Meadows. It was noted that the 40th Anniversary of the BVA will be in April 2017.

OTHER BUSINESS

Councilor Neuwirth inquired about the status of the body cameras for officers. Chief Hammick reported that the department will continue to evaluate various vendors, equipment packages and cost estimates. They are also working the IT department to evaluate storage options and compatibility.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Councilor Rivers, seconded by Councilor Merritt and voted unanimously to adjourn this meeting at 7:15 p.m.